the profit margin of Government;

(b) whether the airlines had been at loss; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government propose to boost up the profit side of airlines of India;

(d) whether there is a complaint for a long time that the food served in airlines in India is poor when compared to other airways in the World;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a need for increasing the number of air hostesses on board to cater to the needs of the passengers; and

(f) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b)

(Rs. in crores)

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Indian Airlines			
Total expenditure	1140.20	1232.02	1685.98
Net Profit/Loss( )	(15.24)	(64.59)	(198.85)
Vayudoot			
Total expenditure	26.96	32.18	25.22
Net Profit/Loss( )	(35.82)	(37.08)	(30.59)
Air India			
Total expenditure	1357.49	1666.94	1926.90
Net Profit/Loss ( )	70.89	81.23	145.89

The loss of Indian Airlines is mainly due to grounding of A-320 fleet during 1990, curtailment of operations for conservation of fuel during January, 1991, downward adjustment of Indian rupee w.e.f. July 1991, additional burden on account of purchase of foreign exchange at market rate, increase in insurance premium, landing charge etc. The loss of Vayudoot is primarily due to uneconomical aircraft, short-haul operations, uneconomical routes and excess manpower.

(c) Measures such as rationalisation of routes and schedules, strict control of expenditure, periodic checks to avoid wastage of food uplift and catering items, re-deployment of excess manpower are resorted to for reducing the loss.

(d) Complaints regarding quality of food are received from time to time.

(e) The number of air hostesses provided on board is as per mandatory requirements prescribed by the regulatory authority.

(f) Does not arise.

Lack of modern amenities for tourism

27. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have achieved the targets fixed for the tourists influx during this year and previous years and if not, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the amenities provided to attract tourists and whether these are comparable to the amenities as they exist in European and East Asian countries; and

(c) whether the lack of modern communications, both road and air, the environmental conditions prevailing in and around our tourist spots and the unprofessional staff handling the tourists at the various levels are the bottlenecks in the growth of tourism industry in the

country, if so, the steps Government propose to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The foreign tourist arrivals upto October 1992 and during the previous years since 1986 except during 1990 and 1991 have exceeded the targets. The decline in tourist arrivals during 1990 and 1991 was due to various international and internal problems including the Gulf War.

(b) The endeavour of the Government is to improve the tourism amenities in the country with the co-operation of State Government and private sector.

(c) The availability of adequate infrastructure is a bottleneck in the growth of tourism in the country. However, the Central Government gives financial assistance to State Governments for augmenting tourism infrastructure based upon specific projects, their *inter-se* priority and the availability of funds.

Conversion of palaces into hotels

28. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are negotiating with some former maharajas of princely states to convert their palaces into hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the results achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A new category of 'Heritage Hotels' has been introduced to cover functioning hotels in palaces, castles, havelies, forts, etc. built prior to 1950. Guidelines for approval at project stage for conversion of heritage properties into hotels have also been formulated to provide additional room capacity for tourists and to preserve these landmarks of our heritage. So far 17 Heritage hotels providing 568 rooms have been approved.

Summer Saver Plan for tourists

29. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any summer saver plan with discount in air fare and hotel tariffs to attract foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Summer Saver Plan was offered to foreign tourists jointly by Air India, Indian Airlines and the hotel industry for the period from 1 Apr.—30 Sep. 92

(b) Air India offered 30% to 40% discount while Indian Airlines offered 15% on US$ fare. ITDC offered various discounts going upto 60% on its selective hotels. Some private hotels also offered discounts ranging between 40 and 50%.

Expansion of Calicut Airport

30. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of the Calicut airport;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether 'AIR INDIA' is considering a proposal to start flights of Gulf countries from Calicut; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Airports Authority has plans to construct a separate new International Terminal suitable for handling 250 outgoing and 250 incoming passengers, at an estimated cost of Rs. 613 lakhs. The architect has been appointed and the drawings have been